

**Environmental Restoration (ER) Project
Cerro Grande Fire
Accelerated Action Information Sheet**

**Potential Release Site (PRS) 18-002(a)
Firing Site (Abandoned)**

Technical Area (TA)-18 is located off Pajarito Road near the confluence of Pajarito Canyon and Threemile Canyon. The principal activities at TA-18 are the design, construction, research, development, and application of experiments that involve chain reactions of atoms splitting fast enough to be self-sustaining (called nuclear criticality).

PRS History: PRS 18-002(a) was a firing site in Pajarito Canyon near the present location of Building 18-23 at Critical Assembly Kiva I. The firing site consisted of a firing chamber constructed of 1-inch thick steel and an aboveground armored bunker (a "battleship"), which was used to protect test shot instrumentation. The site was used to detonate high explosives. The firing site, located a few feet west of the battleship front, was open at the top and set at ground level. The firing chamber was removed in 1945; the battleship is still in place.

PRS 18-002(a) is listed on the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments module of the Laboratory's Hazardous Waste Facility permit. ER Project personnel proposed the PRS for no further action; there are indications of residual risk at the site.

Issues of Concern: The area upstream of PRS 18-002(a) was burned at an



intensity rated as low to high during the Cerro Grande fire. There is a potential

for erosion at the PRS. The battleship is located near the main drainage channel and the access road.

Accelerated Action Status: During the preparation of the Cerro Grande Accelerated Action PRS Status Sheets, ER Project personnel noted that PRS 18-002(a) was a potential candidate for additional characterization and that the flood potential and mitigation efforts in Threemile Canyon needed to be evaluated.

Related Documents: November 2, 1995, also Notice of Deficiency